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TAGS: [MTCRE](#) [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [MNUC](#) [ETTC](#) [KSCA](#) [BU](#)
SUBJECT: BULGARIA: POSITIVE RESPONSE TO MTCR REQUEST

REF: STATE 80072

Classified By: POLEC COUNSELOR JIM BIGUS FOR REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D).

¶1. (C) We delivered reftel to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), urging Bulgarian support, including a presentation, at the upcoming Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) Plenary in Rio de Janero, November 9-13th, 2009. Bulgarian MFA Senior Expert for NATO and International Security Directorate, Elizabeth Konstantinova, promised to request more active participation. Konstantinova, along with MFA International Security Expert Mariya Yaneva, view the information exchange as logical, important, and a "comfortable environment to exchange information," adding that "different voices need to be heard." However, both expressed concerns that the forum will be plagued by "repetitiveness" and "predictability," with some countries inclined towards grandstanding. In the end, MFA remained non-committal, but hopes to have an answer by August 17th. On that date, Konstantinova will also update Bulgaria's plans on sending a delegation to the Defense Threat Reduction Agency workshop in Kiev, September 15-17th, ¶2009.

2, (C) Konstantinova and Yaneva confirmed rumors that former Bulgarian Ambassador to the U.S., Elena Poptodorova, will replace Dr. Petyo Petev, as director of MFA's NATO and International Security Directorate.

SUTTON